

3/4/2022

Anna Sullivan
University of Hartford CREC Magnet School
196 Bloomfield Ave
Hartford, CT 06117

RE: SB 227 - AN ACT CONCERNING MAGNET SCHOOL PROGRAM FUNDING

Dear Senator McCrory, Representative Sanchez, Matthew Ritter, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher Murphy, John B. Larson and Honorable Members of the Education Committee;

My name is Anna Sullivan and I am from Hartford, CT. I have a daughter who attends University of Hartford CREC Magnet School. Thank you for raising Senate Bill 227. I am asking you to please support this much needed 8% increase in the state magnet grant for CREC Magnet Schools.

My child benefits greatly from the extraordinary opportunity she experiences every day at U-Hart Magnet School. This diverse and engaging learning environment that boasts a unique curriculum inspired by Dr. Howard Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences ensures a bright future for many children from many different backgrounds. It would be because of amazing and honorable members like yourselves that this successful opportunity and experience will continue to be possible.

My daughter absolutely loves and adores this school! She goes to school and comes home happy every single day! She has made so many friends from various backgrounds. One of the main reasons I chose this school for my daughter is because I love the fact that students from every race attend this school. This is very important for children to grow up and see diversity and inclusion. My daughter has had the amazing opportunity to be appointed as class president for her first grade class. She has been recognized and awarded for her leadership, help and care that she diligently displays in school. This is an a great attribute for the school to recognize students and encourage them to be their best and help other students.

We have also experienced spectacular support from the caring staff. They go out of their way to help students. They have also extended this attribute to parents. During the peak of the pandemic staff members, teachers as well as the principal went out of their way to help and offer support, check-ins and make sure that families were safe and received the appropriate support that they need. Because of the excellent educational community that

CREC provides, my child learns better and is more prepared for the real world as a result of working alongside other kids from different backgrounds.

Principal Barber is an outstanding principal that many students love and can depend on to ensure they receive the best support for their growth and learning. My daughter's first grade teacher Miss Bellacosa is such a caring and supportive teacher that strives for excellence in all aspects of the classroom learning for her students.

Our magnet schools are at risk and our children and students need your help! Students and families have experienced so many changes, family and personal losses, as well as up and downs during this long duration of uncertainty. It is imperative that we protect our children's education and security during these times and avoid any more disruptions. Children come first in this world so we need your help to protect their lives, well being and future.

Our CREC community comes together to humbly ask the legislature to follow through on its promise to invest in the future of all students. Magnet schools have a successful track record of providing their students a chance to thrive. CREC magnet schools are at risk. Without this 8% increase in funding, CREC will be forced to either cut programming or to increase the tuition to local school districts. I am asking you to please follow through on the legislatures promise to invest in the future of *all* students. I urge you to increase this much needed funding to CREC magnet schools. Please respect all of the hard work that has gone into these efforts. Thank you so much, we appreciate your consideration.

Sincerest regards,

Anna Sullivan
Student Mother
University of Hartford CREC Magnet School